

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VALLET 00570 211738 Z

46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 T-03 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 IO-12

EB-11 M-03 A-01 SY-07 RSR-01 /145 W

----- 112696

O 211620 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4107

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

IRAKLION CRETE GREECE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMAC SCOTT AFB, ST LOUIS, MO IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

CTF 67 IMMEDIATE

COMNAVINTCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T VALLETTA 0570

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINR, PFOR, LY, MT

SUBJECT: LARAF ATTACK ON USG AIRCRAFT

REF: TRIPOLI 348, 349, 350 (NOTAL)

1. DATT NOTIFIED OF ATTACK ON U. S. AIRCRAFT SOUTH OF MALTA  
BY RN AND RAF SOURCES AT ABOUT 10:00 LOCAL TIME. FURTHER  
INFORMED A/ C PASSED OVER MALTA AT 0930 ON WAY TO ATHENS.

2. AIR COMMODORE BRIEFED DATT AT 1600 LOCAL TIME:

A. RAF LUQA RCVD VOIC COMM ON INTERNATIONAL DISTRESS

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FREQ FROM USN EC 130, CALL SIGN HAZY 32 AT ABOUT 0800 Z, REPORTING THAT (1) A/ C WAS BEING FIRED ON BY TWO LIBYAN MIRAGES, (2) HEADING NORTHEAST (3) REQ STEER FOR MALTA.

B. RAF PROVIDED STEER AND MADLIENA RADAR SITE PERSONNEL WATCHED ATTACK AND REATTACK. FIRST INTERCEPT OCCURRED AT LAT 34 DEGREES 10 NORTH ABOUT THREE MINUTES PRIOR TO MAYDAY. SECOND DURING MAYDAY CALL AT ABOUT 34 DEGREES 20 NORTH. THEN MIRAGES APPEARED TO HAVE ESCORTED C130 TO 34 DEGREES 30 NORTH BEFORE BREAKING OFF.

3. RAF ADVISED DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION ( DCA), WHO ALREADY KNEW OF INCIDENT-- PRESUMABLY FROM INTERCEPT OF MAYDAY BROADCAST. DCA CLAIMED USN A/ C WAS UNDER MADLIENA CONTROL, WHICH RAF, OF COURSE, DENIED. RAF PROVIDED DCA WITH RECORDING OF ALL COMMUNICATION INTERCEPTS OF INCIDENT, BUT WITHHELD LATITUDES OF INTERCEPT. RAF PROVIDING TRANSCRIPTS OF COMMUNICATIONS TO DATT 22 MARCH.

4. AIR COMMODORE COMMENTED THAT LAR HAS IN PAST ALLEGED MADLIENA A THREAT TO LAR, AND THERFORE SOME DIFFICULTY COULD BE EXPECTED. HOWEVER RAF CONSCIENCE IS CLEAR SINCE AT NO TIME WAS RAF LUQA IN CONTROL.

5. LOCAL NEWSMEN HAVE HEARD OF ATTACK, PROBABLY FROM CIVAIR AUTHORITIES, AND ARE PRESSING FOR COMMENT. WE ARE SIMPLY AFFIRMING THAT WE HAVE HEARD REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT, BUT HAVE NO DETAILS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE PRESS GUIDANCE SOONEST. GETZ

SECRET

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 MAR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** cunninfx  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973VALLET00570  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 TRIPOLI 348, 349, 350 ( NOTAL)  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** cunninfx  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 JUL 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26-Jul-2001 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971218  
**Subject:** LARAF ATTACK ON USG AIRCRAFT  
**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, PINR, LY, MT  
**To:** AF  
DOD  
TRIPOLI INFO ATHENS  
LONDON  
MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

